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OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
ON THE
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HOUSING CONDITIONS
OF THE
WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT
For the Year 1946




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*To the Chairman and Members of the Council of the Urban
District of Walton-le-Dale.*

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council,
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report upon the health of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1946. In general terms it follows the lines of the reports of past years but contains some extra information which was not suitable for publication during the years of the war.

During the whole year the department worked with an incomplete staff for the vacant post of Additional Sanitary Inspector had not been filled. In consequence it was only possible to continue supervision of the milk supply in the limited manner of the previous year. Sufficient control however was exercised to ensure that the milk supplied to and in the district was of a wholesome quality, but without frequent sampling it is difficult to ensure that milk containing the Tubercle Bacillus is never retailed.

The policy of taking samples of the raw milk coming to the Milk Marketing Board was continued and the results of these samples were forwarded to the districts where the milk was produced. Where Tubercle infected milk was found the name and address of the producer were forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health. All this milk was pasteurised, and to ensure that the heat treatment was efficient, frequent samples were taken of the finished product by the Sanitary Inspector of the County Council and of the Urban District.

The health of the district continued to be satisfactory in 1946. None of those post-war diseases which appeared after the 1914-1918 war made their appearance in the period under review. It was necessary to keep under constant supervision many of the service personnel who returned from abroad, where infectious diseases were prevalent, either on leave or on discharge from the Forces. Cases of Infectious Diseases were ten less than in the previous year, the reduction being greatest in Scarlet Fever, where the numbers were halved. Towards the end of the year an increased number of notifications of Measles indicated that the district was being affected by the same epidemic which was present in the surrounding districts. Diphtheria was entirely absent from the district in 1946.

The year showed an increased Birth Rate, a decreased Death Rate, and an Infantile Mortality Rate which showed an increase on the previous three years.

The Blood Donors Sessions were continued, though on a much reduced basis when compared with the war years.

The Ambulance Service run by the Council continued to give valuable service to the district. Cases of sickness, accidents and maternity cases were removed to hospital with a minimum of delay.

One of the provisions of the National Health Service Act is that the Ambulance Services are to be transferred to the County Council, who in the future will make provision to remove all accidents, cases of sickness, mental cases, infectious cases, etc., to hospital or to institutions. This service is to come into operation in 1948. Walton-le-Dale may become one of the County Sub-stations.

The National Health Service Act, which will possibly come into force in the autumn of 1948, will produce other changes of a far reaching character, and many parts of the work of Health Departments which had been strictly within the orbit of local administration will, under this Act, be transferred to other bodies of a Regional or Divisional Status. It should, however, be understood that the transference of these functions will not lessen the work of the Department, but indeed may, by a process of decentralisation, increase it; but the organisation of much of the work will be in the hands of larger bodies. It will be necessary to adjust a nice balance in order to preserve the more intimate working of the local department with the wider administration of the larger units.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AREA.

The district is almost quadrangular in shape, having an average width from East to West of some $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and in length from North to South, of $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. The surface slopes generally from South-East to South-West. In the South-east the height above sea level is 280 feet, whilst in the North-west, it falls to about 25 feet above the same level.

About two miles of the northern boundary of the district is formed by the River Ribble. This part of the river is tidal in almost all of its length.

The River Darwen flows through a valley in the northern part of the district, joining the Ribble at the western end of the northern boundary.

Geologically the district lies on Triassic sandstone, upon which are placed (1) a Lower Boulder Clay Layer, (2) a layer of Drift Sand and (3) an Upper Boulder Clay Layer. The base of rock forms an inclined plane which dips downwards towards the sea. Outcrops of this rock are found in beds of the Ribble and the Darwen. In the Boulder Clay Layers stones are found of varying sizes, which are mainly of Lakeland origin. In the Drift Sand layer deposits of gravel are found. The layers of Glacial Drift fill the valleys, but the hill tops are usually free of Drift.

The thickness of the various layers varies in different parts of the district; towards the western side the three layers approximate 100 feet in thickness, but in most parts of the district the Upper Boulder Clay is 10 feet, the Drift Sands 9 ft., and the Lower Boulder Clay 2 feet upwards.

The island formed between the two rivers contains large alluvial deposits which provide a rich soil for market gardening.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area in Acres	4,761
Population (Census, 1931)	12,718
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid 1946)	13,700
Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931)	3,314
Number of inhabited houses (Rate Books, 1946)	4,183
Rateable Value	£63,550
Sum represented by a penny rate	£265

Social Conditions. The district is partially industrial and partially residential. The industries are cotton manufacture, engineering, market gardening, dairy farming and corn milling. No mortality nor morbidity could be directly attributed to these industries.

Vital Statistics.

	M	F	Total
Live Births: Legitimate ...	131	109	240
Illegitimate ..	5	6	11
Total ...	136	115	251
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	18.3		
	M	F	Total
Still Births: Legitimate ...	3	2	5
Illegitimate ...	...	1	1
Total ...	3	3	6
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	23		

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	9	5	14
Illegitimate ... ..	...	1	1
Total ...	9	6	15

Death rate of infants under one year:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	59
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	58
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	90
DEATHS males 78 females 84 ... Total	162
Death rate per 1,000 of population from all causes	11·8
Death rate per 1,000 of population from cancer	2·04
Death rate per 1,000 of population from pulmonary tuberculosis	0·29
Maternal mortality rate	3·89
Deaths from puerperal sepsis	nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	nil
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	nil
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2

Comparative Table.

	Per 1,000 of Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Infantile Mortality Rate
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death-Rate	Death-Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death-Rate from Cancer	Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Live and Still-Births	
Mean 5 years, 1940 to 1944	16·8	12·9	0·41	1·79	3·57	3·46	49
Year 1944	18·3	11·6	0·30	1·82	nil	nil	37
Year 1945	16·8	13·2	0·22	1·98	4·52	4·40	49
Year 1946	18·3	11·8	0·29	2·04	3·98	3·89	59
County of Lancaster, 1946	18·42	12·61	0·39	1·85	1·46	1·42	50
England and Wales, 1946	19·1	12·0	0·46	1·84	N.A.	1·43	43

N.A.—Not Available

The Birth Rate showed an increase, the Death Rate a decrease, and the Infantile Mortality Rate a rise as compared with other years.

A Table analysing the causes of death in 1946 is given below.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths.

Causes of Death.	1946		
	M.	F.	Total
Diseases of the Heart	19	26	45
Cancer (all sites)	13	15	28
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	8	9	17
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	2	4
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	1	2
Digestive Diseases	1	4	5
Tuberculosis (all forms)	4	2	6
Nephritis	0	5	5
Diabetes	2	...	2
Acute Infantile Encephalitis ...	1	...	1
Other Diseases of Circulation ...	2	1	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1	2
Maternal Deaths ... ..	...	1	1
Premature Births	7	2	9
Congenital Malformations, &c. ...	...	2	2
Suicide, Accident, and Violence ...	5	2	7
All other causes	8	10	18
TOTAL	78	84	162

A Table is given below showing some comparative figures over the last fifty years. Five decades are given, also years 1941 to 1946.

Table of Five Decades.

Period	Per 1,000 Population			Enteric Fever		Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever		Diarrhoea	Infantile Mortality Rate
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Phthisis Death Rate	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Deaths	
Ten Years											
1891-1900	30·8	18·9	1·25	133	27	46	16	211	15	122	188
1901-1910	26·3	14·7	0·95	116	21	98	15	391	16	58	128
1911-1920	18·7	13·7	0·91	54	5	166	16	565	11	46	107
1921-1930	16·0	12·0	0·72	7	0	66	5	310	0	11	64
1931-1940	14·0	12·7	0·44	5	2	47	3	414	0	5	56
1941	14·9	11·9	0·42	0	0	4	0	10	0	0	42
1942	17·9	11·9	0·43	0	0	4	0	11	0	1	60
1943	17·5	14·5	0·59	0	0	8	1	30	0	0	47
1944	18·36	11·66	0·31	0	0	8	0	30	0	1	37
1945	16·8	13·2	0·22	0	0	1	0	45	0	1	49
1946	18·3	11·8	0·29	0	0	0	0	22	0	2	59

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The death rate from this disease showed a slight increase upon the previous year. The number of deaths was six, compared with four in 1945.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia caused respectively five and four deaths less than the previous year.

Cancer. The number of deaths from Malignant Diseases in all sites of the body was 28, two more than in 1945.

Other Causes of Death. Diseases of the Heart were responsible for the largest number of deaths. Intra Cranial Lesions also showed a large number.

Infantile Mortality. In all, 15 deaths occurred in children under one year of age, an increase of four compared with 1945. Prematurity was again the chief cause of death. There were two deaths from Pneumonia. The Infantile Mortality Rate of 59 was higher than the three previous years.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	4 weeks to 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
1944	Prematurity	8	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	9
	Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
	Gastro-Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
	Pyloric Obstruction ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Infantile Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	TOTAL	9	...	...	1	4	1	...	...	15

Maternal Mortality. There was one death from diseases connected with pregnancy.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health.—G. G. Wray, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Other appointments.—M.O.H., Leyland U.D.C., Fulwood U.D.C., Longridge U.D.C., Senior Medical Officer, Lancashire County Council.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.—Nicholas Baron, C.R.San.I.

Other Appointments.—Cleaving Superintendent.

Public Vaccinator.—Dr. Howard, Penwortham.

Certifying Factory Surgeon.—Dr. Logan, Lostock Hall.

Bacteriological and Pathological Facilities.—The Laboratory of Preston Royal Infirmary was used as in previous years. It gave satisfactory service.

In 1946, the following examinations were made:—
Swabs for Diphtheria, 14.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Infectious Diseases were removed in the ambulance of the Infectious Diseases Joint Hospital.

Accidents, cases of illness, maternity cases and emergency cases of all kinds were transported to hospital in ambulances owned and run by the Urban District Council.

The Council employed drivers and attendants for this purpose and the service operated over the full 24 hours, and was under the control of the Medical Officer of Health. It provided an instantaneous service at all times, was efficient, and appreciated by medical practitioners and the patients carried.

The total number of patients carried in 1946 was:—

Maternity Cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Cases of Illness	...	...	...	...	...	...	167
Accident Cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Other Cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	246

Nursing in the Home.—These duties were carried out by Nurses in the employment of Walton-le-Dale Nursing Association, which worked in close co-operation with the Lancashire County Nursing Association.

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Midwifery Service.—Two midwives employed whole time by the County Council resided in this area. Their names, addresses and telephone numbers were:—

Mrs. S. E. Hodgkinson, S.C.M., 307, Station Road, Bamber Bridge.	Tel. 85360.
Miss A. Spencer, S.C.M., Knotville, Walton-le-Dale.	Tel. 4783.

Ante-Natal Clinic.—Meetings were held fortnightly at the School Clinic in Brindle Road. Clinical examination, advice and treatment were given to expectant mothers by specialists from the Maternity Section of Preston Royal Infirmary, Mr. Andison and Mr. Thomas, under the County Council Scheme. Where disproportion, abnormality or difficult home circumstances arose, the mothers were admitted to Preston Royal Infirmary or to Sharoe Green Maternity Hospital.

Dental Treatment was given at the Clinic by the County Council Dentist.

The number of mothers who attended this Clinic during 1946 was:—

Number of mothers in attendance ...	196
Number of attendances ...	634

After parturition, mothers were advised to attend for advice or treatment where necessary. Fourteen mothers attended on 15 occasions for such advice or treatment.

Nineteen mothers received dental attention on 31 occasions.

The Child Welfare Centre.—This met each Thursday afternoon with a County Medical Officer and a County Health Visitor in attendance each session. Each infant received a full examination and a history of its state and progress was made in each case. Parents were advised upon infant care and management. Simple treatment was given where necessary, more serious defects being referred to general or specialised hospitals. During the years the number of babies in attendance and their attendances were:—

	Children	Attendances
Under 1 year	240	2,220
1 to 2 years	182	675
2 to 5 years	145	436
Total	567	3,331

The School Clinic was available for Inspections, the treatment of Minor Ailments, Dental treatment and Ophthalmic treatment.

Minor Ailments.—Sessions for the treatment of conditions of the skin, ear, nose, throat, eye, injuries and for inspections, were held twice weekly (Monday and Thursday). School children and children under school age received treatment at the Clinic, and parents attended with them for advice.

171 children of school age attended on 473 occasions.

Twelve children under school age attended on 24 occasions.

Ophthalmic Clinic held fortnightly for the treatment of defective vision and squint.

In 1946, 120 children of school age attended on 204 occasions.

Eleven children under five years old attended on 22 occasions.

Dental Clinic.—Children of all ages up to leaving school attended for inspection or treatment. It has already been noted that expectant or nursing mothers also received treatment.

The number of children who attended for treatment was 674, and they attended on 945 occasions. The treatment provided was conservative in the case of 363 children, and 1,090 teeth were extracted from the others, for which over 500 anaesthetics were given. Twenty-two children under five years of age attended for treatment on 44 occasions.

During the year 1,405 children, composed of 265 children under school age, and 1,140 of school age, attended for inspection.

Orthopaedic Clinic at Leyland. Children from this area were referred to this clinic. It met monthly for the inspection, treatment and reference to hospital where necessary, of cases of Paralysis or Deformity. An Orthopaedic Nurse attends to give exercises, adjust apparatus, and to apply splints or other apparatus.

Special Defects.—Children suffering from Blindness were referred to Henshaw's Blind School, Manchester. Partially sighted children were referred to the Partially Sighted School at Fulwood for residential education.

Deaf and Dumb Children were referred to the Royal Cross School, Preston, for specialised education.

Mentally Defective Children, after certification, were placed in the care of the Lancashire Asylum's Board.

Tuberculosis.—The dispensary for patients from this area was in Walton's Parade, Preston, with a Tuberculosis Medical Officer and a Tuberculosis Nurse in attendance. Examination, treatment, X-Ray and Light treatment, and X-Ray for diagnosis, were given at this dispensary. Patients were referred to Sanatorium or Hospital when necessary.

Venereal Diseases.—Under the County Scheme patients attended at Preston Royal Infirmary special Venereal Clinic.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Infectious Diseases were admitted to Preston, Fulwood and Longridge Joint Hospital. The number of cases admitted in 1946 was 21 (slightly more than half the number admitted in 1945).

Small-pox.—There were no cases—would be admitted to Elswick Joint Small-pox Hospital.

General Diseases.—Three hospitals were available:—

- (1) Preston Royal Infirmary.
- (2) St. Joseph's Hospital, Mount Street, Preston.
- (3) Sharoe Green Municipal Hospital.

All three hospitals were extensively used by patients from this area.

THE PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In 1946, the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified was 106, whereas in 1945 there were 116, and over 200 in 1944.

Measles again provided the largest number of cases. Notifications of Scarlet Fever were halved when compared with the previous year, and **there was no Diphtheria.**

The table below gives the analysis of cases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

Notifiable Diseases.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.														Total Deaths.	HOSPITAL.	
	Total cases at all ages	YEARS.														Total cases removed to hospital.	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over				
Scarlet Fever ...	22	..	..	..	2	3	14	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	..
Measles ...	56	1	1	5	11	7	27	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	20	2	1	3	2	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Pneumonia	3	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Erysipelas ...	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
TOTAL ...	106	4	2	8	16	16	48	5	3	1	1	1	1	4	21	1	

It was not necessary to close any school on account of Infectious Disease throughout the year.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.—The measures to protect the child population against Diphtheria were continued in 1946. In this period the number of children immunised was:—

Children aged 0—4 years. ...	...	...	162
Children aged 5—14 years ...	...	...	97
			<hr/>
Total ...	...	...	259
			<hr/>

In this district at the end of the year 555 children under the age of five years, and 1,243 between five and 15 years had been protected. On the estimated child population (Registrar General) these numbers give percentages respectively of 49.55 and 65.76, or a total percentage of 59.73.

In addition to these children for whom records exist, at least five per cent must be added of those children who have been immunised privately.

The degree of protection possessed by the children of the district against Diphtheria was such that in the year 1946 it was sufficient to prevent the occurrence of a single case.

Other Diseases Suspected to be Infectious.—There were no outbreaks reported in the year under review. Enquiries were made into the occurrence or otherwise of cases of Infantile Enteritis of the newly born, an outbreak of which had occurred in an adjoining area. There were none in this district.

TUBERCULOSIS.

On the register at the end of the year there were 32 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 25 cases of Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis, which may be compared with 32 and 24 respectively in 1945.

There were 18 primary notifications in 1946 (11 P., 7 N.P.), and six deaths (4 P., 2 N.P.) occurred.

During the year five patients received hospital or sanatorium treatment.

Seventeen persons were removed from the register as "recovered," diagnosis not confirmed, or left the district. The recovered numbered eight.

The table below gives an analysis of the notifications and of the deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality in 1946.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
5 ...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
10 ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15 ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 ...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
25 ...	1	3	...	...	...	1	1	...
35 ...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
45 ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
55 ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	5	6	5	2	2	2	2	...
	11		7		4		2	

THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Milk Production.—In 1946 there were 64 dairy farms in the district with 1,050 cows. The number of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms) was 64, and the number of milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers) was 14. Eighteen of these farms produced “Accredited Milk.”

Mention has already been made in an earlier part of the report of the difficulty of obtaining sufficient samples of milk to control fully the bacterial and cleanly qualities of milk. The number of samples taken in 1946 was 100 (less than in the two previous years) and of these, 59 were satisfactory, and 41 unsatisfactory. All the samples were tested for the presence of Tubercle Bacillus, and it was found present in five samples, the other samples were free.

In 1945 more than half of the samples of milk examined were unsatisfactory, whereas in 1946 the greater proportion was satisfactory, so that progress has been made in the fight to obtain purer milk. Greater progress could have been made if sufficient staff had been available to take samples more frequently and to pay an increased number of visits to the farms and dairies. It was only possible to visit each farm in the year once.

The farms themselves were in the majority of cases well kept, many had improvements made, but a few required reconditioning.

Of the 100 samples examined, 45 were of milk produced in the district, of which 30 were satisfactory and 15 unsatisfactory; of 41 samples of milk produced outside the district, 15 were satisfactory and 26 unsatisfactory.

Fourteen samples taken of Pasteurised Milk were all found to have been correctly heat treated.

Only one locally produced milk was found to be positive for the Tubercle Bacillus, whereas four of the samples of milk produced outside the district were positive.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938.

The five samples of milk which were found to contain the Tubercle Bacillus were reported immediately to the County Medical Officer of Health, and by him to the Ministry of Agriculture. As already mentioned, one of these was from a local producer. The result of the enquiries at the farms where the affected was produced established that three cows were heavily infected with Tuberculosis, and these were slaughtered under the Act. In the other two cases group samples from the herds were found free of Tubercle so the infected cows had probably been sold or otherwise disposed before the farm inspections took place. None of the cows affected was found in this district.

The Milk in Schools Scheme.

All the schools in the district received daily supplies of milk. Practically all of this milk was heat treated. All the samples tested were free of the Tubercle Bacillus and satisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods.

No cows nor sheep were slaughtered in this district in 1946.

Condemnation of Food Unfit for Human Consumption.

The total amount of food condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year was 12 tons 13 cwt. This amount included 163 tins of food and the rest was composed of meat and other foods. Further details will be found in Mr. Baron's report appended.

It was not necessary to take any legal proceedings during the year.

Food and Pure Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

Food and Drug Act, 1938.

Samples were taken by the Sampling Officers of the Public Health Department of the County Council, which is the authority responsible for the administration of these Acts. Given below are the particulars of the sampling and the results:—

Of a total of 154 samples taken, 79 were of milk and the 75 others comprised:—

1 Piccalilli	1 Canned Fish
1 Meat and Vegetables (Canned)	1 Mixed Spice
1 Oatmeal	1 Flour
1 Coffee and Chicory Essence	4 Sauce
1 Baking Powder	1 Mixed Pickles
1 Coffee	1 Self-raising Flour
4 Bread	1 Fish Paste
2 Tea	1 Cocoa
2 Syrup	4 Semolina
3 Butter	4 Dried Vegetables
2 Dried Eggs	1 Bacon
3 Cod Liver Oil	2 Boracic Ointment
1 Sulphur Ointment	6 Dried Fruit
1 Whisky	3 Margarine
4 Saccharin Tablets	3 Gin
3 Sweets	1 Treacle
4 Cheese	3 Barley
	2 Mercury Ointment

One sample of Mercury Ointment was found to be deficient of 0.6 per cent. of Mercury and the vendor was notified.

Seven samples of milk were found to be deficient and adulterated as follows:—

1 Milk.	Deficient 4 per cent. contained 1 per cent. extraneous solids-not-fat. water.
1 Milk	Deficient 7 per cent. contained 1 per cent. extraneous solids-not-fat. water.
1 Milk	Deficient 10 per cent. contained 8 per cent. extraneous solids-not-fat water.
1 Milk.	Deficient 1.7 per cent. contained 1.4. per cent. extraneous solids-not-fat. water.
1 Milk.	Deficient 2.3 per cent. contained 4 per cent. extraneous solids-not-fat. water.
1 Milk.	contained 0.5. per cent. extraneous water.
1 Milk.	Deficient 20 per cent. fat.

Water Supply.

Owing to shortage of staff it was not found possible to take the usual number of samples for bacteriological examination. One sample only was submitted and it was found to be satisfactory.

The number of houses supplied from the mains was 4,122, supplying a population of 13,074, and the average daily consumption was almost 28 gallons, or for all purposes 49 gallons.

The supply came from Manchester Corporation (Thirlmere) and from Preston Corporation.

I am indebted to Mr. Whittle, the Water Inspector, for the following detailed report upon the water supply.

Water Engineer's Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1946.

Statement showing the consumption of water for the year ended December 31st, 1946:—

	Gallons.
Taken from Thirlmere at both Meter Houses	203,882,000
Consumed on pipe line en route to Reservoir	1,408,000
	<hr/>
Total Thirlmere delivered in District	202,474,000
Taken by meter from Preston Corporation	16,508,000
	<hr/>
Total quantity of water delivered in District	218,982,000
Consumed by meter outside District	2,697,000
	<hr/>
	216,285,000
Water retained in Reservoirs, December 31st, 1946	643,000
	<hr/>
Total quantity of water delivered in District	215,642,000
Total quantity consumed by meter in District	67,228,000
	<hr/>
Total quantity consumed in District for all purposes	148,414,000
Total quantity per day for domestic and all purposes	406,611

Estimated population at 14,595 plus 32 equals 14,627, we have per head per day, 27.798 gallons.

Average per day for all purposes, including trade, 40.39 gals.

Houses visited, 901; W.C. Cisterns repaired, 117; Taps re-washed, 534; Burst Services, 134; Burst Mains, 7.

During the year the following water mains have been laid and connections made to the Council's water mains:—

Hennel Lane Housing Site—450 yds. of 4" Spun Iron Water main.

Collins Road Housing Site—92 yds. of 3" Spun Iron Water main.

Hoghton Lane Housing Site—128 yds. of 3" Spun Iron Water main and 161 yds. of 4" Spun Iron Water main.

Connections made for new property—91

Metred connections made—4.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The area is well sewered except on the outskirts of the district. The sewerage works is overloaded and the design antiquated. No complaints were received during the year on account of this overloading. The Council have had under constant consideration the provision of further plant to relieve this position.

Closet Accommodation.

The number of conversions during the year was again limited by shortages of material and labour. The number converted was three. A table analysing the position has been prepared by Mr. Barton, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and is given below. It will be noted at the great change which has taken place in the district over the past years.

	1910	1918	1939	1944	1945	1946
No. of Privy Closets	621	255	26	24	20	20
No. of Pail Closets	1093	973	165	150	148	147
No. of Waste Water Closets	345	327	264	249	245	243
No. of Fresh Water Closets	694	1267	3670	3687	3693	3750
No. of Houses with dry Ash-pits	1499	994	51	51	49	49
No. of Houses with Ashpails	1058	1632	4012	4012	4014	4071

Public Cleansing.

The service continued to work satisfactorily through the year. Motor vehicles were used entirely. The details of the amount of work undertaken and the further relevant details will be found in Mr. Baron's report which is appended.

Sanitary Inspections.

The number of inspections, the defects found, the defects remedied, and other matters of interest will be found in Mr. Baron's report appended.

Over 500 inspections were made of dairies, milkshops, food stores, workshops, factories, drains and other general buildings. These inspections entailed revisits, in many cases because of the difficulties of carrying out the repairs. Shortage of materials and labour were both factors in this delay.

Private Streets and Back Passages.

No new work was undertaken in 1946.

Schools.

There are eleven schools in the district. The majority are old but with the exception of two are satisfactory for light and ventilation; at one of these, St Aidan's, as the result of pressure from the Council and reports from the Medical Officer of Health, who is also the Divisional School Medical Officer, repairs were effected which did at least render the school more habitable for the children in attendance. Eighteen visits of inspection were made to the schools. The school playgrounds are inadequate in area in most cases.

A Teachers' Training College was established in this district for the training of ex-service men as teachers.

A Training Establishment for the Board of Trade was also established.

Playing Fields.

There were playing fields in Higher Walton, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale. Bamber Bridge was poorly served in this respect but the whole question of playing fields was under the consideration of the Council, and investigations are still in progress to increase the number and area of these playing fields.

Housing and Housing Conditions.

The number of new houses erected in the district in 1946 was 57—12 by the local authority and 45 by other persons. Fifty-two other houses were in course of erection or in contemplation at the end of the year. Over 650 applications had been made for housing accommodation by the year end.

One hundred and twelve visits of inspection were made to 53 houses in 1946 for sanitary defects. Seventeen of these houses were in a state dangerous to health or unfit for human habitation. Thirty-six other houses were found not to be reasonably fit for human habitation. Thirty-one houses were rendered fit after informal action by the authority.

There were many houses in the district where repairs, even extreme repairs, were required. The shortages of labour and of materials made these repairs difficult, and this difficulty was not eased by the multiplicity of forms required before any repair could be instituted and materials obtained for the alterations.

There were houses additionally, which by reason of disrepair, insanitary conditions of building, or surroundings, or of senility, which in easier and more normal times, when the demand for houses was less urgent, would be scheduled as clearance areas for demolition. Some of these houses have already been scheduled but not yet demolished. It will be necessary to schedule the remainder, so that when permission is given, they can be replaced with the minimum of delay.

Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses.

Supervision over the sanitary conveniences and the general hygiene was continued in 1946. The canteens also were visited. During the war years complete supervision over these places of work was suspended at the request of the Home Office and reports upon them have not yet been called for by the Ministry of Health.

As many alterations and improvements have been effected during the war period, it will be necessary in the immediate future to make a complete survey of all these places of work and to bring existing records up to date.

New Legislation in 1946.

The National Health Service Act.

Reports Appended.

- (1) Report by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Report Included.

- (1) Report by the Water Inspector.

I have the honour to be,

Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. G. WRAY.

November, 1947.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Walton-le-Dale Urban
District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the following report on the Sanitary work of the Health Department for the year 1946:—

During the year the difficulties of getting essential work carried out have gradually increased.

The austerity programme has hit the building industry, and the difficulties of obtaining material to keep old property in a sanitary condition have been greater than ever. The principal reasons why delays have occurred in carrying out essential work are as follows:—

1. The delays caused by having to obtain permits to purchase various building materials.
2. Merchants not having sufficient stocks of materials required and
3. The difficulties of getting contractors to undertake and carry out work at old property, have all contributed to make the work of the Health Department most difficult.

I have on many occasions assisted owner occupiers of houses at their request, to obtain a contractor to carry out urgent repairs at their house after appeals by the owner of the house to various contractors had failed.

The chief difficulty is that the delays caused by these shortages and restrictions is resulting in the deterioration in the sanitary condition of many existing houses, and complaints cannot be remedied as speedily as in the past.

We have drifted into a state of make shift, which is most unsatisfactory and uneconomical.

However, we are endeavouring by every means in our power to surmount and control all our problems which are ever present in the difficult times in which we are living.

The following is a brief summary of the work done during the year 1946:—

No. of Inspections of Dwelling Houses	53
No. of Reinspections of Dwelling Houses	112
No. of Inspections of Houses	19
„ „ „ Schools.	18
„ „ „ Cowsheds, Dairies and Milk Shops ...	64
„ „ „ Food Stores	38
„ „ „ Food	25
„ „ „ Factories and Workshops	15
„ „ „ Drains	94
No. of General Inspections	14
„ Other Inspections	147
„ Rodent Inspections	8
„ Reinspections	109
„ Salvage Inspections	40
„ Drains Tested	18
Total	774

FOOD.

The following is a summary of the Foodstuffs condemned in the district during the year.

No. of Tins	Description	Weight				
		Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lb.	ozs.
47	Beans ....	....	...	1	20	1½
36	Evaporated Milk	....	...	1	4	4
20	Pineapple ...	....	...	...	20	...
2	Corned Beef ....	....	...	...	12	...
23	Pudding Mixture	....	...	...	11	8
2	Prem ....	....	...	...	1	8
2	Red Plums ....	....	...	...	2	...
2	Salmon ....	....	...	...	...	8
1	Pilchards ....	....	...	...	...	15
3	Peas ....	....	...	...	2	12
8	Sardines ....	....	...	...	1	10
1	Mixed Vegetables	....	...	...	1	3
2	Stewed Steak ....	....	...	...	2	...
2	Coffee ....	....	...	...	1	...
6	Soup ....	....	...	...	4	10
2	Irish Stew ....	....	...	...	2	...
2	Fish Paste ....	....	...	...	...	9
1	Meat Roll ....	....	...	...	1	...
1	Crab Paste ....	....	...	...	1	...
...	Butter ....	....	1	1	6	1
...	Margarine ....	....	...	3	...	...
...	Raisins ....	....	...	1	12	...
...	Fish ....	....	...	...	14	...
...	Beef ....	....	...	2	9	...
...	Ham ....	....	...	...	14	8
...	Bacon ....	....	...	...	11	8
196 sacks	Oatmeal	12	8	3	...	...
3 „	Flour					
Total number of tins—163		12	13	1	17	9½

MILK.

Summary of information with reference to Farms and Dairies and the results of the examination of samples of milk:—

No. of Dairy Farms	64
Approximate number of Cows	900
No. of Cowkeepers	64
No. of Accredited Farms	20
No. of Dairymen other than Farmers	10
No. of Farm Inspections	64

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES OF MILK.

The total number of samples of milk taken in the district was 100.

Bacteriological Examination.

100 were taken for Bacteriological examination.

45 were taken from Producers in the district and of these
30 were satisfactory and
15 were unsatisfactory.

41 were taken at the Milk Marketing Board from Producers outside the district and of these
15 were satisfactory and
26 were unsatisfactory.

Tuberculosis Examination.

100 samples of milk were examined for Tuberculosis.

45 of the samples taken were from Producers in the district and of these
1 was found to be Tubercular.

41 Samples were taken from Producers outside the district and of these
4 were found to be tubercular.

14 samples of Pasteurised milk were taken for the full examination—All were found to be satisfactory.

DISINFECTIONS.

No. of Dwelling Houses disinfected	39
No. of Parcels of Bedding disinfected	250
No. of Beds disinfected	37
No. of Beds destroyed	22
Summary of notices served and work completed in compliance with the notices:—	
Defective Roofs and Rain Water Conductors made good ...	12
„ Drains made good	78
„ W.C.'s made good	33
„ Pails converted to W.C.'s	1
„ Waste Water closets converted to W.C.'s.	2
Additional W.C.'s provided	1
Premises redrained to sewer	3
Defective Closet Buildings made good	1
Ashpits Abolished	2
Ashpails provided	5
Miscellaneous defects made good	49
Total number of defects remedied	187

Notices Served		Complied with		Outstanding		Total
Formal	.....	5	...	11	...	16
Informal	.....	152	...	8	...	160
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	.....	157	...	19	...	176

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Staff. There is one fully trained Rodent operator employed part-time on this work.

Premises. Only eight complaints were received and dealt with. Test baits have been laid at intervals in various parts of the district.

Refuse Tip. The Council Refuse Tip, which is a major infestation, was treated on four occasions.

Bait. The bait used was sausage rusk and stale bread mash.

Poison. The poisons used were Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic.

Results.

Premises. Nineteen ounces of poison bait was taken. Approximate number of rats destroyed, 47. Number of rats picked up, 10.

Tip. Thirty-seven ounces of poison bait was taken. Approximate number of rats destroyed, 185. Number of rats picked up, 22.

Total. Approximate number of rats destroyed, 232.

Immunisation and Civil Mortuary. The records of Immunisation and the supervision of the cleansing of the Civil Mortuary have also received attention.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE WORK.

The following table shows the amount of work done by the motor vehicles:—

Year	Vehicles employed	No. of days	Approximate weight of Refusecollected	Total miles travelled	Average miles per gallon
1946	Three Dodge Motors	826	4649 tons	23218	7.97

The Analysis of the cost of the collection and disposal of House Refuse, and the collection and disposal of Salvage, showing the credit for salvage for the year 1946:—

	Cost per day	Total Cost
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dodge Petrol Wagons ...	1 15 11	1484 6 3
Men's Wages and Insurance (including bonus) ...	...	2101 1 3
Loan Charges ... ..	...	26 12 11
Materials and miscellaneous accounts ... ..	...	266 1 6
Total Cost ... ..	...	3878 1 11
Less sale, salvaged materials	1360 0 7	
Less other credit	8 18 5	1368 19 0
Nett Cost		2509 2 11

COLLECTION AND SALES OF SALVAGE.

The following table shows the tonnage and materials sold, and the amounts received for Salvage during the year 1946:—

	bales	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lb.	£ s. d.
Paper—Newspapers, Magazines, mixed paper	1729	112	1	3	4	783 16 4
Textiles — Rags, Cloth, Carpets, Sacking, String	177	10	18	2	22	135 13 9
Ferrous Metals—cast, light, and heavy iron ....	...	7	14	2	14	27 0 8
Loose tins ... ..	...	9	19	1	...	9 19 3
Kitchen Waste ... ..	...	191	4	...	...	339 9 8
Bones ... ..	...	...	11	3	...	3 5 6
Bottles and Jars ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	5 1 3
Boots and Shoes ... ..	...	...	5	...	12	1 5 5
Rubber ... ..	...	1	6	2	...	4 12 9
Miscellaneous Sales ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	49 16 0
Total ...	1906	335	1	2	24	1360 0 7

The Council commenced the collection of Salvage in May, 1940. The following table shows the tonnage sold and the amounts received each year by the sales of salvaged materials:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qts.	lb.	£	s.	d.
1940	129	3	3	18	426	18	4
1941	194	7	3	—	828	10	8
1942	280	5	1	5	1148	5	1
1943	376	4	1	16	1424	18	0
1944	463	6	2	—	1576	17	8
1945	491	9	1	11	1607	19	9
1946	335	1	2	24	1360	—	7
Total ...	2269	18	3	18	8373	10	1

At the termination of hostilities the public thought the necessity for the collection of Salvage had ceased and this seriously affected our collection. But the urgent necessity of a continued maximum collection of Salvage has been repeatedly emphasised by several Ministries.

The Salvage most urgently required is:—

Paper. For making wall and ceiling boards for new houses, packing cases for food, and for re-manufacture.

Kitchen Waste. For feeding pigs and poultry.

Bones. For making glue and fertilizers.

Rags. For making paper and for remanufacture.

If every member of the public would respond to the many appeals made to them for Salvage, the efforts of Local Authorities would be more successful.

In addition to the multifarious duties of my office which have all received attention, many matters outside my statutory duties which would have a bearing on the future well being of the people of the district have received attention.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

NICHOLAS BARON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

Council Offices,
Bamber Bridge.

